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PROCLAIMERS OF THE KINGDOM MESSAGE

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good
tidings of good, that publisheth salvation ; that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth ! ' '-

Looking down through the corridors of the ages, and viewing the closing part of the Gospel age, the Prophet of the Lord wrote concerning that time in the words of our text. The Gospel age opened with the clarion notes of the Master announcing , "The kingdom of heaven is at handl" The King was then upon the earth ; but before he could attain to the glorified condition and assume the authority of his great office he must suffer, die and rise again. So those who compose the members of his body must likewise suffer and die and rise from the dead before the kingdom will be fully in operation. Throughout the Gospel age, therefore, the body members have been in course of preparation, and many Scriptures teach thiat at the close of the age those remaining in the flesh to finish the work would be especially honored by the Lord.

"FEET MEMBERS" OF THE MYSTICAL CHRIST

St. Paul, in addressing the Corinthian church, uses a human body to illustrate The Christ, saying, "For as the body is one and hath many members, and ail the members of that body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ." (1 Oor. 12:12-27) The Apostle calls attention to the importance of each part of the body, and the office that each performs. In another place he says, "He (Jesus) is the Head of the body,

the church; who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in all things he might have the preeminence." (Colossians 1:18) The Head, Christ Jesus, was born first, and it follows, therefore, that the last members of the body to be born would properly be designated "feet members."

Hence the Prophet Isaiah refers prophetically to these last members of the body, who would participate in the glorious privilege of announcing the glad tidings on the earth. He describes them as "beautiful." Evidently their beauty does not appeal to the world. Their special beauty is not a beauty of the flesh ; they are beautiful by reason of the sweet, unselfish, sacrificing spirit manifested. Their great desire is to announce the King and the blessings which his kingdom will bring.

TTie word "mountains" in the text symbolically represents kingdoms. At this time we see the kingdoms of the earth torn with the strife of the most horrible war in history. Ejrery nation is threatened with disruption. All peoples desire lasting peace, yet know not how to obtain it. Everywhere men's hearts are failing them for fear because of what they now see upon the world, and they are fearful that even worse things will come. "All faces gather blackness." — Joel 2:6.

The Prophet Isaiah contrasts this condition of distress amongst the peoples of the earth with the condition and work of the "feet members" of the body of Christ, and with ecstasy exclaims, How beautiful are the feet of the Messiah now engaged in publishing peace, in giving to the«world the message that will bring a lasting peace; who bring good tidings of good; who are bringing to the dying race the sweet message of salvation ! Truly wonderful is the position occupied by every spiritbegotten one who in this harvest time fully appreciates the privilege of serving the Lord! These are coworkers with the present King, engaged in a special sense in proclaiming the

-Isaiah 62:7.

closing message of the age — "The kingdom of heaven is at hand'^fche King is present!

It has been the privilege of the Watch Toweb Bible asd Tract Society since its organization to send out brethren designated as pilgrims, or lecturers, to proclaim this glorious message to those who have hearing ears. The Lord gave the harvest message to the Laodicean church, the faithful ones of whom compose the "feet members" of Christ; and he gave it through his especially chosen servant, according to his promise. (Matthew 24:45-47) All. the "feet members*' who are now engaged in proclaiming this precious message received their enlightenment by partaking of the "food" which the Lord sent through his chosen servant. The Watch Toweb unhesitatingly proclaims Brother Russell as "that faithful and wise servant" He delivered the message faithfully, finished his course and has now entered into his reward. Through him the Lord gave to the church the message that is so essential to each one who in this harvest time would win the glorious prize.

We cannot too strongly urge upon the pilgrim brethren, therefore, that they emphasize to the various classes the necessity of adhering strictly to the message which the Lord gave through this chosen channel. Any departure from tihe message at this time must necessarily be displeasing to the Lord and work a detriment to those thus turning aside to accept some other message or scheme.

The pilgrims have the privilege of opening the way. It has been found necessary for others to follow up the pilgrim work, that those who have manifested some interest in present truth may be encouraged to greater growth in knowledge.

THE COLPOKTEUE WORK

The Society has long recognized the importance of the colporteur work. If we were to draw comparisons, we would say that the colporteurs do the most important work of all, because they are bearing this message of glad tidings of peace and good will in a form that enables the one receiving it to feed upon it in the quiet of the home, and thus to grow thereby. The colporteurs, therefore, enjoy a wonderful privilege as

coworkers with the Master in the field. The strongest of our pilgrim brethren are unable to deliver more than three lectures daily, whereas the colporteur who places only one volume in the hands of the interested thereby preaches many discourses, and in such connected and convenient form that they may be referred to as often as desired. The colporteurs are in no sense book agents, but are truly ambassadors of the Lord, delivering his message of reconciliation to the world. It is our desire to encourage the colporteurs all we can to be as diligent as ever, and rather to speed up than to become faint or weary in their minds.

At this time the majority of people have some ready money and are anxious to know the meaning of the great distress among the nations. The colporteurs, by placing the Scripture Studies before them, thus bring that which will fully answer their questions and satisfy their desires. We hope to hear of more becoming active in the colporteur field by Spring time, and trust that they may labor with diligence before the great

night of darkness, when no man can work, fully settles down upon the world. Truly the harvest is white, but the laborers are few!

THE PASTORAL WOBX

t We do not always have the foresight that we desire. Often

mistakes are made unwittingly. The Lord permits such experiences to teach us lessons. It now appears that there is danger of the colporteur and pastoral work conflicting at times, whereas these two important branches should be a great aid one to the other.

A man who attempts to walk and steps with one foot on the other must necessarily impede his progress. The "feet members" that go forth to declare the message of Messiahs kingdom would not look so beautiful if one foot interfered with the progress of the other.

During the time Brother Russell was with us as our leader, several hundreds of classes of Associated Bible Students elected him Pastor, and the Pastoral work was under his direct supervision as shepherd of these congregations. lie afterwards thought well to suggest this work to all the classes, limiting it for a time to the sisters in the congregations.

After Brother Russell's death, the Society continued the name "Pastoral Work" because of having no more appropriate name. It was not until about this time that the work was fully developed, and the advantages and disadvantages of the first outlines could be properly weighed. It has taken time to get the work well in hand, and we are convinced that it is now no longer wise to limit this work to the sisters, but rather that the responsibility should rest upon all the congregation, that all should have a voice in it.

As has already been advised, our new President has counseled against the electing of pastors by any of the ecclesias, believing that in view of Brother Russell's peculiar relationship to the church and out of deference to his memory, none should attempt to fill the place of Pastor to the church at this time. It is therefore impossible to carry out fully Brother Russell's original ideas about the Pastoral work ; hence it becomes necessary to make some changes, that the work may be conducted efficiently and in harmony with all other branches.

When a general dies, the members of his .personal staff cease

to be officers in that capacity; so when Brother Russell died those who had been selected as lieutenants under his direction, technically speaking, were no longer officers. Acting upon this situation, and with perfect harmony, at a business meeting held in the Brooklyn Tabernacle by the New York City congregation, a lieutenant and other officers for the New York Ecclesia were elected by the congregation.

It is now the suggestion of the Society that this course be followed by the classes everywhere; or, if it is deemed better , those holding the positions mi^it resign and the congregation proceed as soon as convenient to elect a lieutenant and other officers necessary to conduct the work; or, if thought wise, reelect the present incumbents.

The lieutenant elected should then communicate at once with the Society's Office at Brooklyn and she will receive from the Office assignment of territory and further instructions. All territory will be assigned by the Brooklyn Office, but when assigned will be districted by the local Lieutenant. The territory for both the colporteurs and the pastoral workers being assigned from this Office, as is now done in Greater New York, will avoid any possible confusion. The pastoral work will then be carried on practically as before, with the exceptions herein stated.

BOOK-LOANING FEATURE ONLY INCIDENTAL

The book-loaning feature of the pastoral work instituted by. Brother Russell was originally intended by him to be merely incidental and not to be a prominent part of the work; the chief part of the work being to call on those who already have the books, to interest them in reading, to encourage them to attend Chart Talks, and then to organize classes for Berean Bible Study.

Indiscriminate loaning of books in territory where colporteurs are canvassing must of necessity be detrimental to the colporteur work. Thus one foot would interfere with the other, impeding progress. This we all desire to avoid. We therefore ask the friends to adopt the following . course, especially

in cities or towns where colporteurs are at work, in order
that we may not hinder the colporteurs and yet may still grant

to the pastoral workers the same privileges they have heretofore
enjoyed.

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Al] territory for both the colporteur and the pastoral work
will be assigned by^the Society, but one map will be used, and
that the map now used for the colporteur work. The colporteurs
will first canvass the territory; afterwards the pastoral
workers will follow in the same territory. Both colporteurs
and pastoral workers receiving their assignments from
the Society, there can he no conflict and no interference with
each other's work.

When following in the territory that has been colporteured,
should the pastoral workers find those who desire to purchase
books, the colporteur still being in the city and working in
any part thereof, should be sent to that person with the books
for sale. The pastoral workers should sell no books whatever
in cities where colporteurs are at work. The names of those
who have purchased books from the colporteurs should be furnished
to the pastoral workers, who will call upon suoh and endeavor
to interest them in reading and in attending Oh art
Talks, as heretofore outlined in The Watch Tower. After
the city has been gone over in this manner, the colporteurs
might then go again over the same territory covered by the
pastoral workers, this time selling the Manna and Dbama
iScENARio, and again the pastoral workers could follow the colporteurs
, and thus keep in touch with the people who are
manifesting interest. The only possible way to avoid one department
's interfering with another is to have everything managed
from the Society office at Brooklyn.

As to the loaning of books, this can be done to those who
•had a chance to purchase from the colporteur, but had not
done so. Our experience is that one who buys a book is much

more likely to read it than one who borrows it. We therefore would not encourage the loaning of the Studies in the Scriptures where this would in any wise interfere with the colporteur work.

VOLUNTEER WOBK

Where it is possible, it is always better that the volunteer workers follow, in the district, both the colporteur and pastoral workers. If it is not found practicable to follow the pastoral work, the volunteer work should come in between the colporteur and pastoral work, thus stirring up as much interest as possible in the minds of those in the community.

The volunteer matter is very valuable. I>o not waste it. We earnestly recommend volunteers, where it is possible, to Ting the door-bell and hand in the paper to some one in the household, or to put it in the doorway. Throwing them ou the street, or placing them on empty car seats, or on the ground near mail-boxes is not wise. Let us keep in mind t£e importance of the message and the necessity of putting it where it will do the most good.

OoncernSng the selection of the district, the canvassers, the canvass to be given, and the Chart Talks, we refer the friends to the November 1, 1016, Watch Tower. Since the pastoral work will henceforth be under the supervision of the entire congregation and not under the sisters alone, it would be proper that the entire congregation select the speakers; or, in harmony with the custom we have oft-times followed, the selection of the speakers may be delegated bv the congregation to the elders, who will choose those best qualified to deliver such talks.

We hope that every ecclesia of Associated Bible Students in the land will at once organize for the pastoral work, elect their lieutenant and have that lieutenant communicate at once with the Office of the Society at Brooklyn for instructions and the assignment of territory. The Society will see to it that this assignment does not in any manner conflict with the colporteur assignment, but that it works in conjunction therewith.

Let us arouse ourselves to the importance of the hour, dear brethren. The opportunities are great; the laborers are few. The Lord has been pleased to place in the bands of each of us the wonderful privilege of publishing the message of salvation. As we go forth in the field of labor, let us be inspired with the words of Jehovaih spoken through the Prophet: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringetn good •tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good ; that publisheth salvation ; that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth! . . — Isaiah 52:7.

PHOTO-DRAMA OF CREATION

In the early part of January the Board of Directors of the pauy. This contract was to be fully consummated by March

\yATCH Toweb Bible and Tract SocrsTr entered into a condi- 31 next.

tional contract for the sale of the raoro-DBAMA of Creation As many friends throughout the country have since expressed

with certain brethren who had organised the Hena Film Com* the feeling that the Society should retain the Bbama, it has

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THE WATCH TOWER

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been mutually agreed by the Board of Directors of the Society and the Film Company that the contract of sale for it

shall be cancelled, and it has been cancelled, the Societt to retain
the possession and ownership of the Photo-Dbama of
Creat/ton.

It is fully and mutually understood by all the parties that
the cancellation of this contract is without prejudice to any.

We take this occasion to announce that the Mena Film
Company is entirely independent from the Watch To web Bible

and Tbact Society, is not financed by the Society, and the
Society is not at all interested in it financially, but has the
kindliest feeling toward all the brethren who are interested
therein. The Film Company believes that it will produce an
all- film exhibition which will be instrumental in teaching God's
plan.

The friends everywhere must exercise their own will and
discretion in reference to subscribing for stock, as the Society
will not attempt to influence them one way or another.

THE V. D. M. QUESTIONS

"And the things which thou didst hear from me through many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be competent

to instruct others. "— -2 Timothy 2 :2— Diaglott.

In March, 1915, a student in the Kentucky Wesleyan College
wrote to us concerning the degree of V. D. M. He had

read the second page of The Towek, and was deeply impressed

by the following words which he had found in the second

paragraph of the standing article on "This Journal and its

Sacred Mission":

"Our Berean Lessons are topical rehearsals or reviews of

our Society's published Studies, most entertainingly arranged,

and very helpful to all who would merit the only honorary

degree which the Society accords, viz., Verbi Dei Minister

(V. D. M.), which ; translated into English, is Minister of the

Divine Word."

Consequently, he wrote to the Society asking that they inform
him what would be necessary for him to do to merit this

degree. In reply, he was informed that if he would read carefully
six volumes of Scbiptube Studies, and then read them

again to impress their lessons upon his mind and heart, and

would then write us, we would submit to him a set of questions
, which, if he could answer correctly, would enable us to

recognize him as a V. D. M.

In March, 1916, the Society received the following letter

from this student in the Wesleyan College:

"I have been a Bible Student since January 4, 1915.
I ordered a set of Studies in the Scbiptubes at that time
and I have been very deeply interested in the books ever
since. I am also a reader of The Watch Toweb, and I
like it fine, especially its treatment of the International
Sunday School lessons. I have just completed a careful
reading of Studies in the ScbiptTjBES. I have read the
entire set of six volumes twice, and I have carefully looked
up and read each Scripture citation in the meantime. I
have read several B, S. M.s also. I am now reading carefully

twelve pages of the Studies each day, reading each
Scripture citation as I go. I am consecrated to the Lord
and his work.

"It is wonderful what a fine spiritual atmosphere Pastor
Russell leads one into, if one will read carefully and
prayerfully his Studies in the Scbiptubes. This fact
emphatically contradicts the many false and slanderous reports
made by the modern Pharisees in their ridiculous
and absurd attempts to assassinate his character. I
never saw Mr. Russell in my life, but I would stake life
itself on the above statement I have made. Such a character
as he is painted to be could not create any such impression
on people in general as he invariably does. You
are seized with confidence and assurance that vou are getting
the truth, presented honestly and sincerely, from the
very moment you commence reading Studies in the Scbiptubes
. In reading any other literature you get a little
truth — much error; you lose your confidence, and very
soon you are entangled in a maze of tradition and rank
foolishness, which is absolutely revolting to one who has
the truth. Well did our Master declare, *My people perish
for lack of knowledge.*

"I request that you send me your series of questions
required to be answered by a candidate for the degree of
Verbi Dei Minister, and also any instructions pertaining
thereto. .... I could write a book in praise of Studies
in the Scbiptubes, but will now close, with love and respect
for the Society and its beloved Pastor."
As a result, the V. D. M. questions were prepared and sent

to him, and his were the first answers received and filed. He

made about 90%. It was then thought well to submit the

list to the pilgrim brethren. Others requested them and afterwards
they were sent to the elders, then to the colporteurs, and

.subsequently to all who sent in requests for them. The pastoral

workers are now asking for the questions and also many sisters

who hesitated at first because of having the impression that

the questions were intended for the elders only. The requests

are now general, and the Committee is kept busy in trying to
keep up with them. This has necessitated the formation of the

V. D. M. Kept., which is endeavoring to serve the friends a*
faithfully and expeditiously as they possibly can. They have
regretted their inability to serve the friends as soon as requested
in many instances, but by the Lord's ^race they have
"stuck to it/' until now they are getting their heads pretty
well above water.

No doubt some of these papers were lost in the mails during
the Holiday rush ; others were not signed by the writers or
full address was omitted, so that there was no means of identifying
them, or advising the writers; still others have failed to
obtain the required 85%. We are reserving the failures for
later treatment and advice. For these reasons many have not
yet heard from their papers, whereas thousands have received
reply and been made happy. Some of the letters of appreciation
that we receive are truly refreshing and encouraging. In
one instance a sister failed; but the Committee thought they
could greatly encourage this saint by sending her another set
of questions and advising her to try again. This was her
reply: "Dearly Beloved Friends in Christ: WTien I saw our
Secretary, she said, 'You are turned down on your questions.'
I said, *I am thankful for that; I am going to start right next
time.' So if I am not right, turn me down again. I make so
many mistakes and blunders, but I know they are steppingstones
, and make me more careful. Dear friends, I love you
dearly, and my heart is with you in this great harvest work.
God bless you all! Pray for me," etc.

Some have said that they thought the questions, when first

they looked them over, were easy and elementary, but they found afterwards that the more they thought and prayed over them, the more important they appeared. We have many letters telling us bow much good the preparation of their answers to these questions has done them. To put these answers down in the right way, and to give appropriate references to the Scriptures and Dawns after each answer takes considerable time. Many have spent a whole day on them, and some two days* These h«ve seemed to receive the largest measure of blessing.

One brother wrote us, after much prayer and study over them, that he considered these V. D. M. questions to be "The pulse of the church," and a great many have testified to the wisdom of Brother Russell in preparing and sending them out. No doubt they have helped to raise the standard of eldership in many instances. It has certainly endeared our hearts to the friends as the V. D. M. Committee has so generously and patiently gone over the papers and made brief reply. We would have preferred that each paper be answered separately and individually, but this would have taken a year or more, even to handle the thousands already received, and the Btream continues to flow in daily.

Various friends have requested that we send them a list of the correct answers; but this would have interfered with the work proposed. We have invariably replied that it was the Society's intention, after most of the answers were in, to print a list of the correct answers in The Watch Toweb, so that all might have the benefit of them in the way of comparison, correction , confirmation and refreshment.

The V, D, M. and pastoral work were the two features of the harvest which the Lord impressed upon the mind of our beloved Brother and Pastor shortly before his departure. How wonderful and various have been the mutual blessings connected with both of them I It will be the Society's pleasure to serve the friends in connection with the V. D. M. questions until, in the Lord's providence, they shall cease to flow in. The answers will be kept on file for future reference. The Lord sees

them. It is a fine witness for the truth. They reveal, among other things, how the Lord's spirit teaches many humble ones of earth far removed from the educational facilities of men. "Hath not God chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

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JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE

[This article was a reprint of that entitled "I Am the Bread of Life," published in isaue of March 1, 1908, which please see.]

THE KING COMETH!

"See, the King in beauty cometh,

He, thy long, long absent King;
As the light of dawn he shineth,
And his breath is that of spring
From the night of darkness waking,
Zion, lift thy voice and sing!

"From the dust of ages rising,
Put on all thine ancient might,

For to thee the crown belongeth,
And to thee the raiment bright —

Of the coming age the glory,

Of the ransomed earth the light."

JESUS SAVES FROM SIN

[This article was a reprint of that entitled "Ye Shall Be Free Indeed," published in issue of February 15, 1899, which pleas

see.] ...